

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for creating a customized web page comprising the steps of:

storing a web authoring software module on a storage device;

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providing access to a web authoring software module via a distributed computing network;

displaying one or more options for editing existing information elements when existing information elements are displayed;

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displaying one or more options for adding information elements within a web page;

in response to receiving the selection of an information element editing option,

displaying one or more supplemental information editing options associated with the selected option;

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in response to receiving the selection of an adding option, displaying one or more supplemental information element adding options associated with the selected option; and

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displaying a preview of one or more information elements, whereby position, size, and content of the information elements are customizable in accordance with the options selected by the user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more information elements comprise at least one of text, an image, a table, a movie, music, a hyperlink, and a sound.

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3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
displaying an option to add a table; and
in response to receiving a selection of adding a table,
requesting size information for the table.

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4. The method of claim 3, wherein said size information
comprises at least one of a number of rows and columns for the table.

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
receiving size information for the table;
displaying the table in accordance with the received size
information; and
displaying one or more options within each cell of the
table.

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6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
displaying an option to add an image to the web page;
in response to receiving a selection of the option to add
an image to the webpage, retrieving an image from a database coupled to the web
authoring software module; and
displaying a preview of the image on the web page.

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7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising the step converting
the image from a first format to a second format.

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8. The method of Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a selection to resize the image;
altering computer code accessed by a browser; and
redisplaying the image according to the altered code.

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9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
displaying an option to add a hyperlink to the web page;
in response to receiving a selection of the option to add
a hyperlink to the webpage, receiving the address of the hyperlink; and
5 displaying the address on the web page.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of
restricting one or more types of information elements that can be added to the web
page.

11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of adding
one or more tables within an existing table displayed on the web page.

12. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
15 instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

13. A method for creating an electronic file viewable on a distributed computing network comprising the steps of:

storing an authoring software module on a storage
5 device;

accessing the authoring software module via the distributed computing network, the authoring software module operable for creating an electronic file viewable on the distributed computing network;

selecting an information element to add to the electronic
10 file, the element having a size and a location which is adjustable; and

displaying a preview of the electronic file as it will appear as viewed on a web browser accessing the file via the distributed computing network.

15 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of accessing the authoring software module on the distributed computing network comprises accessing from a remote client coupled to the distributed computing network the software module, the authoring software module residing on a server computer.

20 15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the information element selected to add to the electronic file comprises at least one of text, an image, a table, a movie, music, a hyperlink, and a sound.

25 16. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of retrieving an image information element from a database coupled to the distributed computing network.

30 17. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in Claim 13.

18. A system for creating files of information readable on the World Wide Web comprising:

a distributed computer network;

5 one or more clients coupled to the distributed computer network; and

a software module accessible on the distributed computer network, the software module operable for creating a web page comprising one or more information elements, the information elements being formatted and positioned by said software module, a size and a position of each information element being
10 unconstrained and the information elements comprising at least one of text, an image, a table, a movie, music, a hyperlink, and a sound.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the software module restricts one or more types of information elements based upon instructions received from a
15 user.

20. The system of Claim 18, wherein the software module comprises at least one of an HTML editor operable for creating the elements and JAVA code program operable for controlling the functionality of the elements.